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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT [redacted] 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 24 November 1952

SUBJECT Hron Metal Foundries (Kovohuty Hron)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. A new factory for the production of alumina and aluminum is being built in Sv. Kriz nad Hronom (Q49/C54), called Hron Metal Foundries National Corporation (Kovohuty Hron, n.p.). According to the Five Year Plan, production should begin there in September 1952. Full output is to be achieved in 1953 when the factory will be employing 300 technical and administrative employees and 2,000 workers. The total expenditure on construction will be 2,400 million Kcs. Until the factory is completed, its offices will be located at Prague I, Olivova 6. The employees of Kovohuty Hron are engaged in research and preparations for production, construction of the factory buildings, and training of technicians and workers.

2. Research consists partly of laboratory work, e.g. chemical analysis of bauxite and alumina, and partly of experimental work for which two electrical furnaces are used which are provided with Soederberg anodes of the same type as will be installed in the factory. The head of scientific research is Ing. (fnu) Masl, and the head of experimental research is Dr Ing. (fnu) Pich, who is also an employee of the Research Institute of Metals. Production processes of French, Indian, Yugoslav, and Hungarian factories are taken as models, as some of the technicians for Kovohuty Hron who worked abroad learned techniques for the production of aluminum in these countries. For example, Dr Ing. (fnu) Pich was in Hungary, Ing (fnu) Prokes in Yugoslavia, and Ing (fnu) Somerlik in India (he returned in 1945). Their knowledge is supplemented by the advice of Russian and Hungarian technicians invited to Czechoslovakia to help develop a suitable technical method for producing aluminum. Research is carried out partly in the laboratories of the Technical University (Vysoka skola technicka) in Prague-Dejvice, partly in the Research Institute of Metals (Vyzkumny ustav kovu) in Panenske Brezany (051/ F 70) and, finally, in the Research Institute (Vyzkumny ustav) in Prague-Liben, Na Rokytce, where the experimental furnaces mentioned above are located.

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3. Alumina (Al_2O_3) will be manufactured from Hungarian bauxite. Aluminum will be manufactured from alumina by electrolysis in electrical furnaces with approximately a 5000ampere current. The anode material will be produced from coke because coke is the only material available for this purpose. The following composition proved to be the most successful in research and experiments: about 30% coke dust with granulation up to 0.076 milimeters, about 12% dust, granulation up to 0.12 milimeters, about 20% dust, granulation up to 0.50 milimeters, 10% dust, granulation up to 0.8 milimeters and the rest grain from 1 to 3 milimeters with about 30% pitch added. The anode substances will be manufactured by a special factory in Zilina (Q50/ O 92) with about 400 employees. This factory will be subordinate to the Kovohuty Hron enterprise. The first aluminum produced in research was not of a good quality, because of a high percentage of impurities, ashes and iron, caused by the imperfect composition of the anode substance. A further task of research and experiments is to ascertain the optimal layer quantity of alumina and greolit.

4. The procedure in planning and construction of the Kovohuty Hron enterprise is in accordance with the general method used in building industrial and other installations. After the government decided in favor of the Kovohuty Hron project, Minister Jan Bilek from the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines (Ministerstvo hutniho prumyslu a rudnych dolu) was entrusted with carrying out the decision. The leading engineers of the Ministry made out the principal plans and handed them to the Foundry and Projection Office (Hutni a projekcni kancelar) which handles all foundry construction. This office elaborated detailed plans. The building part of the project was undertaken by the Ministry of Construction Industry (Ministerstvo stavebniho prumyslu) through the Priemstav National Corporation. The building is in its initial stage: the terrain is being levelled and dwelling units for the employees are being built. The equipment of the enterprise will be of Czechoslovak origin, the procurement of the electrical furnaces causing the only difficulties.

5. Two groups of 30 and 25 workers and technicians were sent to the Tata aluminum works in Hungary for training. The training in Hungary was to last about six weeks. It was planned to send three further groups to Tata for training.

Attachment: A list of Kovohuty Hron,n.p. employees in Prague and Sv. Kriz nad Hronom.

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ATTACHMENT 1.

List of Employees of Kovohuty Hron. n.p., employed in Prague

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Name:		Rank:
Jaroslav Eim		manager
Jan Cizek		head of commercial administration
Rudolf Dvorak		security officer deputy, dangerous Communist
Ing. Jindrich Majer		head of control, calculations
Ing. Jiri Vondrak		head of the accounting dept.
Ing. Karel Strnad		head of technical sector, deputy manager, in charge of construction
Dr Arnost Geuss		clerk of the personnel dept.
Josefa Holubova		clerk of the commercial-administrative dept.
Miroslav Plachky		ditto
Ing. Rudolf Dufek		technical clerk, laboratory research
Samuel Ferko		ditto
Karel Jezdinsky		ditto
Adolf Fonicek		technical clerk, dismissed for cadre reasons
Ing. Jan Kosorinsky		technical clerk
Ing. Miroslav Madej		ditto
Ing. Vaclav Mraz		ditto
Ing. Ladislav Prokes		ditto , head chemist
Eduard Semerlik		ditto
Josef Stanek		ditto

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Name:	Rank:
Ing. Jan Stepanek	technical clerk, in charge of electrification
Ing. Viktor Schwarz	technical clerk, research
Ing. Stepan Lebovic	technical clerk
Lumir Kalivoda	ditto
Ing. Rudolf Splitek	ditto
Vera Kasparova	entrusted with planning
Oldrich Vaclavik	investments clerk, dismissed for cadre reasons
Drahomira Krejcova	administration
Anna Povolna	ditto
Blahous Vlasak	administrative clerk
Vlasta Berankova	typist
Anna Dvorakova	ditto
Andela Liskova	ditto, personnel dept.
Jana Pichova	typist
Marie Smolikova	ditto
Vera Valcikova	ditto
Marie Zluticka	ditto
Otakar Boricky	worker in research
Ing. Vladimir Hamrik	ditto
Jaroslav Kraft	ditto
Dr. Jaroslav Moravec	ditto
Vaclav Novotny	ditto
Vaclav Slechta	ditto
Jana Kaprasova	auxiliary clerk
Pavlina Lorencova	ditto
Karel Spacek	driver
Vlasta Prochazkova	charwoman
Josefa Sustrova	ditto
Antonie Vladarova	ditto

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ATTACHMENT 1.

List of Employees of Kovohuty Hron. n.p., employed in Sv. Kriz nad Hronom

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Name:	Rank:
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Ing. Jiri Popel	technical clerk, gave notice
Jan Rozsival	technical clerk
Ing. Frantisek Stratil	ditto
Alex Arvaj	driver
(fnu) Toman	
(fnu) Hromadkova	
(fnu) Janecek	
(fnu) Horakova	
(fnu) Kaplan	
(fnu) Stepanek	
(fnu) Rychlikova	
Ing. (fnu) Borovicka	
(fnu) Svejda	

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